

UNIT 10 Developing Life Skills Activity

Relating to a Landlord

Directions: Read the information about landlords and tenants. Then assume you are a tenant and answer the questions on separate paper.

A Tenant's Responsibilities

Any time you rent a place to live—whether it is a room, an apartment, or a house—the owner of your building is your *landlord*. Your landlord may live in another unit in the same building, or may be someone you communicate with only by phone. As the renter, you are the landlord's *tenant*.

If you were a landlord, what would you want in a tenant? Probably you would want tenants who do the following:

- Pay their rent on time.
- Keep their place in good condition.
- Observe any rules in the rental agreement, such as “no pets.”
- Do not cause trouble with the neighbors or police.
- Inform the landlord when problems arise or repairs are needed.

Many communities have laws about tenant-landlord relations. Ideally tenants and landlords resolve any disagreements before anyone has to take legal action.

What Should a Tenant Do?

1. What would you do if you were going to be out of town the day the rent is due?
2. What would you do if you did not see a smoke alarm in the apartment?
3. What would you do if a light bulb in your apartment burned out? Why?
4. What would you do if you felt angry enough to yell at your landlord?
5. What would you do if the landlord told you the neighbors had been complaining about you?
6. What would you do if your rent increase one year was more than you could afford?
7. Why do landlords often prefer to have the same tenant stay year after year?
8. Why is it worthwhile to keep good relations with your landlord, even if you dislike the person?